

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ANKARA 01959 151819Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 L-03 H-03

AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02 SS-20 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 111222

O P 151441Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3217

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY BRYEO

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 1959

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP SNAR TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA COVERAGE OF VISIT BY

CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND RANGEL ON OPIUM ISSUE

SUMMARY: VISIT OF US CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND RANGEL RECEIVES PROMINENT AND RELATIVELY UNBALANCED COVERAGE IN THE TURKISH PRESS, WITH MOST PAPERS EMPHASIZING MARCH 14 UPI AND REUTERS REPORTS FROM US TO EFFECT THAT THE CONGRESSMEN HAD INDICATED THAT US AID TO TURKEY COULD BE DISCONTINUED IF POPPY CULTIVATION WERE REINTRODUCED. OFFICIAL RADIO AND TV HAS BEEN GENERALLY DISPASSIONATE, HOWEVER, AND CLARIFYING STATEMENTS MADE BY THE TWO CONGRESSMEN ON THEIR ARRIVAL AT ANKARA AIRPORT RECEIVED GOOD ATTENTION. END SUMMARY.

1. COGRESSMEN WOLFF AND RANGEL, AND HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE STAFF CONSULTANT HACKETT, ARRIVED AT ANKARA AIRPORT MID-AFTERNOON, MARCH 14, TO BE GREETED BY SIZEABLE GROUP OF TURKISH REPORTERS. BY THE TIME, UPI AND REUTERS STORIES
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ANKARA 01959 151819Z

FROM THE US ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF THE TWO CONGRESSMEN HAD

RECEIVED WIDE CIRCULATION, INCLUDING THROUGH THE TURKISH RADIO MIDDAY NEWS BROADCAST. THESE STORIES CARRIED THEME THAT THE TWO CONGRESSMEN WERE PREPARED TO RECOMMEND AN END OF US AID TO TURKEY IF TURKEY REINTRODUCED POPPY CULTIVATION.

2. MILLIYET REPORTER NILUFER YALCIN POSED SOME KEY QUESTIONS AT THE AIRPORT INTERVIEW, AND THE TWO CONGRESSMEN RESPONDED IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL TO THE EFFECT THAT "WE DID NOT COME HERE TO THREATEN ANYONE. WE CAME HERE TO LEARN." THE TWO CONGRESSMEN WERE QUOTED AS HAVING SAID FRANKLY THAT THEY HOPED TO PERSUADE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE ITS MIND ABOUT AN APPARENT INTENTION TO LIFT THE OPIUM BAN. THEY INDICATED THEY WANTED TO CONFER WITH TURKISH OFFICIALS AND LEARN TURKISH VIEWS, BUT REMINDED THEIR LISTENERS THAT THE OPIUM ISSUE WAS AN INTERNAL PROBLEM FOR THE US AS WELL AS FOR TURKEY.

3. THE TWO CONGRESSMEN WERE SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED (PARTICULARLY BY THE OFFICIAL RADIO AND TV MEDIA, AS WELL AS BY MILLIYET) AS HAVING DESCRIBED THE IMPRESSIVE EFFECTS THE OPIUM BAN HAD HAD ON THE HEROIN PROBLEM IN THE UU. CONGRESSMAN RANGEL WAS REPORTED AS SAYING HE WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE US HAD TURNED THE CORNER AND THAT THE US WAS ON THE WAY TO BEING RID OF THE PROBLEM, BECAUSE OF THE TURK BAN. CONGRESSMAN WOLFF WAS QUOTED AS HAVING EXPLAINED HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS TO CONTROL TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS.

4. THE TWO CONGRESSMEN WERE ALSO REPORTED AS SAYING "LET'S HOPE THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL DO SOMETHING TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE THE HARMS TO BOTH". THE TURKISH MARCH 14 1800 NEWS BROADCAST, AS WELL AS LATER EXTENSIVE COVERAGE BY TV OF THE OPIUM ISSUE, DROPPED THE EARLIER REFERENCE TO THE UPI AND REUTERS STORIES FROM US AND CONCENTRATED ON THE REMARKS MADE BY THE TWO CONGRESSMEN AT THE ANKARA AIRPORT.

5. THE TURKISH PRESS OF MARCH 15, HOWEVER, WAS FAR FROM BEING SO BALANCED, ALTHOUGH MILLIYET, FOR ONE EXAMPLE, CARRIED VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE CONGRESSMEN'S AIRPORT STATEMENTS.

6. EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES ON THE VISIT ALSO TENDED TO OVERLOOK THE MORE CONCILIATORY STATEMENTS AND GENERALLY FOLLOWED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ANKARA 01959 151819Z

THE TWIN THEMES THAT THE POPPY QUESTION WAS STRICTLY A TURKISH DOMESTIC AFFAIR, AND THAT THE STATEMENTS OF THE CONGRESSMEN WERE THREATENING TO TURKEY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE INFLUENTIAL ABDI IPEKCI, IN MILLIYET, SAID THE MANNER IN WHICH THE VISITING US CONGRESSMEN WERE APPROACHING THE SUBJECT AND THEIR STATEMENTS GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS FACED A NEW DANGER. THE POPULAR DAILY GUNAYDIN SAID THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THE QUESTION

OF POPPY CULTIVATION BELONGED SOLELY TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE US CONGRESSMEN APPEARED TO BE THREATENING AND CONSTITUTED UNACCEPTABLE INTERFERENCE IN TURKEY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

7. FOLLOWING THE FRIDAY MORNING MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER GUNES AND THE TWO CONGRESSMEN, THE TURKISH RADIO QUOTED THE FOREIGN MINISTER AS HAVING LATER SAID TO THE PRESS THAT "THE TWO CONGRESSMEN AND I, AS AN MP, TALKED TOGETHER AS MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. THE OPIUM ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED. WE TRIED TO APLAIN TO EACH OTHER THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM, THEY FROM THE AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW AND I FROM THE TURKISH POINT OF VIEW. AS MP'S, WE WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE PROPOSALS TO EACH OTHER." CONGRESSMAN WOLFF, THE TURKISH RADIO SAID, STATED THAT HE AND CONGRESSMAN RANGEL HAD A "SATISFACTORY" MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

8. NOTE: CONCLUDING THEME OF MARCH 14 TV EXAMINATION OF OPIUM ISSUE WAS THAT THE MATTER WAS STILL UNDECIDED. MACOMBER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, DRUG CONTROL, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA01959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740341/aaaabmlf.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH MEDIA COVERAGE OF VISIT BY CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND RANGEL ON OPIUM ISSUE
TAGS: OREP, SNAR, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005